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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA

Introduction of Nuclear Technology into the National Economy
(CUB/77/001)

Report of the Administrator *

Date of present approval:	January 1979
Starting date of project activities:	June 1978 (including preparatory assistance)
Planned completion date:	January 1983
To be executed by:	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
Government implementing agency:	National Commission for the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy (CEA)
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$ 2 008 300
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. At present Cuba does not have the necessary material basis to adapt, develop and apply nuclear technology on a large-scale basis in the fields of agriculture, industry and medicine. Considering the potential importance of such technologies for the country's economy and the health-care system, the Government has decided to make a massive integrated effort to develop national expertise in this field.

2. In order to achieve these objectives, technical assistance has been requested from UNDP and IAEA, integrated into the Government's own efforts laid down in a comprehensive development plan. In this connection, IAEA has agreed to provide an additional $622,000 from its regular Programme during the years 1980-1982, to the $400,000 provided over the last few years, subject to approval on an annual basis. This will complement the UNDP contribution which was initiated under Preparatory Assistance in June 1978.

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* In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

II. Objectives and activities

3. The immediate objective of the project is to introduce the use of nuclear technology in four main areas of activity: mineral and metallurgical industries, radiation of food stuffs, nuclear bio-medicine and equipment for higher education, research and teaching in this field.

4. All activities will be part of an integrated approach from the Government to strongly encourage the use of nuclear technologies in various sectors of the economy. The activities include the building and equipping of laboratories for studies and research, as well as training of national personnel both in the country and abroad.

III. Inputs

5. UNDP assistance will be concentrated on the provision of fellowships and equipment, since the envisaged short-term experts in the four fields mentioned in paragraph 3 above will be paid for mainly from the IAEA regular programme. The Executing Agency, IAEA, has further agreed that the main part of the equipment purchases should be subcontracted to the Government.

6. To carry out the activities for which assistance is now approved, the Government will provide for qualified professional and supporting staff, construction of laboratories and equipment.

IV. Financial data

7. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	Previously approved	Present approval	Total approved
Personnel	21 700	47 200	68 900
Subcontracts	-	1 404 000	1 404 000
Training	-	45 100	45 100
Equipment	-	502 500	502 500
Miscellaneous	-	9 500	9 500
	21 700	2 008 300	2 030 000

8. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $5,198,600 in kind.